

**VIRGIN RIVER CHUB**  
**(*Gila robusta seminuda*)**

**STATUS:** Endangered (54 FR 35305, August 24, 1990) with critical habitat (65 FR 4140, January 26, 2000).

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** A silvery medium-sized minnow averaging 20 cm (8 in) in length, but growing to 45 cm (18 in). It is distinguished from other subspecies by the number of rays (9-10) in the dorsal, anal, and pelvic fins, and the number of gill rakers (24-31). The back, breast, and part of the belly have small, deeply imbedded scales that are difficult to see and may be absent in some individuals.

**HABITAT:** Most common in deeper areas where waters are swift, but not turbulent, as is generally associated with boulders or other cover. It occurs over sand and gravel substrates in water less than 30° C (86° F), and is very tolerant of high salinity and turbidity. Found in habitats below 1,372 m (4,500 ft) in elevation.

**RANGE: Historic:** Endemic to 214 km (134 miles) of the Virgin River in extreme northwestern Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. Also found in the Moapa River in Nevada.

**Current:** Occurs within the Moapa River and the mainstream Virgin River from Pah Tempe Springs downstream to the Mesquite Diversion in extreme northwestern Arizona (Mohave County).

**REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY:** Habitat changes (water impoundments and diversions); diseases, such as Asian fish tapeworm; floods; toxic spills; and competition with exotic fishes, specifically the red shiner. Particularly vulnerable to these threats due to its very limited distribution.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** Bureau of Land Management (which owns 80-90% of lands along the Virgin River in Arizona), the States of Utah and Arizona, and private.

**NOTES:** A Recovery Plan for the Virgin River fishes was completed in April 1995 and is available online at:

<http://arizonaes.fws.gov/Documents/RecoveryPlans/Virgin%20River%20Fishes%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf>

Critical habitat occurs in the 100-year floodplain of the Virgin River from the confluence of Ash and La Verkin Creeks to Halfway Wash (above Lake Mead).

Currently being held at Dexter National Fish Hatchery in Dexter, New Mexico.

Listed as a Species of Special Concern by the State of Arizona.